Claims:

1. A method of treating cardiac hypertrophy comprising administering to a patient having cardiac hypertrophy a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma (IFN-γ).

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said patient is human.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said IFN-γ is recombinant human IFN-γ(rh-IFN-γ).

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said IFN-γ is rhIFN-γ-1b.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said cardiac hypertrophy is characterized by the presence of an elevated level of $PGF_{2\alpha}$.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein said cardiac hypertrophy has been induced by myocardial infarction.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 48 hours following myocardial infarction.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 24 hours following myocardial infarction.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein said patient is at risk of developing cardiac hypertrophy.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said patient has suffered myocardial infarction.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 48 hours following myocardial infarction.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 24 hours following myocardial infarction.

13. The method of claim 2 wherein said IFN-γ is administered in combination with at least one further therapeutic agent used for the treatment of cardiac hypertrophy or a heart disease resulting in cardiac hypertrophy.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said further therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of β-adrenergic-blocking agents, verapamil, difedipine, and diltiazem.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said β-adrenergic blocking agent is carvedilol, propranolol, metoprolol, timolol, oxprenolol or tertatolol.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said IFN-γ is administered in combination with an antihypertensive drug.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein said IFN-γ is administered with an ACE-inhibitor.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein said IFN-γ is administered with an endosthelin receptor antagonist.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein said IFN-γ is administered following the administration of a thrombolytic agent.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said thrombolytic agent is recombinant human tissue plasminogen activator (rht-PA).

21. The method of claim 13 wherein said IFN-γ is administered following primary angioplasty for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction.

22. A method for making a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cardiac hypertrophy, comprising admixing a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma (IFN-γ) with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is liquid.

24. The method of claim 22 wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises a preservative.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is an injectable formulation.

26. A pharmaceutical product comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one therapeutically effective dosage of IFN-γ;

(b) a container containing said pharmaceutical composition; and

(c) a label affixed to said container, or a package insert included in said pharmaceutical product referring to the use of said IFN-γ in the treatment of cardiac hypertrophy.

27. The pharmaceutical product of claim 25, wherein said container has a sterile access port.

28. The pharmaceutical product of claim 26 wherein said container is an intravenous solution bag or vial having a stopper pierceable by a hypodermic injection needle.

add a 2